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universal observation. The reviewer has been interested in analyzing the sources upon which it is based, and for this reason has made an analysis of the authorities cited. It is evident that Mr. Farmer has chosen to read a few books and to read them thoroughly. All told, there are sixteen works cited, all of them original sources with four exceptions. By far the largest amount of the material has been quarried out of St. Simon's *Mémoires*, which are cited no less than ninety-five times (he is referred to eight times on pp. 340-341). Then follow in order: Dussieux, *Le Château de Versailles*, thirty-seven times; Dangeau, ten; the *Mémoires de la Duchesse d'Orléans*, nine; the *État de France* and the *Mercur*, each eight times; the *Mémoires* of Madame de Montespan, four; Taine, three; De Sourches's *Mémoires* and the *Œuvres de Louis XIV.*, each twice; Bossuet, once; Madame de Maintenon, the *Lettres*, *Instructions et Mémoires de Colbert*, Martin's *Histoire de France*, Guillaume Du Peyrat's *Histoire Ecclésiastique de la Cour*, and De Tilly, each once.

This is certainly a substantial foundation upon which to build a history of the court of Louis XIV. But it is astonishing not to find M. Émile Bourgeois's edition of Spanheim's *Relation* (1900) and Voltaire's *Siècle de Louis XIV.* included. The ambassador of the elector of Brandenburg is quoted only once, and that in a way to indicate that the allusion is borrowed from the editor of St. Simon or Dangeau. In Spanheim the author would have found an exceedingly important account of the famous reproof given Colbert by the king, a reproof which, coming from such a source at such a time, probably hastened the death of the great minister. This incident is one of the most notable events connected with the building of Versailles. Louis is said to have harshly reproached Colbert for the sums of money which certain parts of the château were costing, among others the great *grille d'entrée*, and to have drawn a comparison between the cost of the palace and the cost of the fortresses in favor of Louvois (see Spanheim's *Relation*, pp. 314-315, and M. Bourgeois's notes).

JAMES WESTFALL THOMPSON.

Mrs. Fitzherbert and George IV. By W. H. WILKINS, M.A., F.S.A. (New York and London: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1905. Two vols., pp. xxi, 350; ix, 340.)

THERE is no great addition to historical knowledge in Mr. Wilkins's story of Mrs. Fitzherbert and George IV.; for the documents which were deposited in 1833 at Coutts's Bank substantiate what was already generally believed, rather than throw any new light on either the character or the actions of George IV. These documents in 1905 were removed from Coutts's Bank, and were placed among the private archives of Windsor Castle; and, on an application to the king, Mr. Wilkins was permitted to examine the papers, and to publish any extracts from them which he deemed necessary in order to establish beyond all doubt the fact of Mrs. Fitzherbert's marriage with George Prince of Wales in 1785.

On the death of George IV. in 1830, Mrs. Fitzherbert asked that her letters to him might be returned to her. The Duke of Wellington, who was then Prime Minister, refused to grant this request unless she was prepared to hand over the documents in her possession; and for the moment the matter was dropped. In 1833, however, the duke again brought up the question. Mrs. Fitzherbert was then seventy-six, and in the event of her death it was feared that the papers might pass into indiscreet hands. After some negotiation it was agreed that Mrs. Fitzherbert should be allowed to preserve certain papers which she thought necessary to prove her marriage and guard her interests; that these papers should be sealed under the seals of the Duke of Wellington and the Earl of Albemarle, who with Lord Stourton acted for Mrs. Fitzherbert; that the sealed package should be placed in safe custody at Coutts's Bank; and that all other papers, including all the letters which had passed between Mrs. Fitzherbert and George IV., should be burned. The Earl of Albemarle and the Duke of Wellington personally undertook the burning of the letters—a task which occupied several hours. The reserved papers—now for the first time given to the public—include: the certificate of the marriage, dated December 21, 1785; a letter signed by George, relating to the marriage; the will of George IV.; a mortgage on the palace at Brighton; and a memorandum written by Mrs. Fitzherbert, attached to a letter written by the clergyman who performed the marriage ceremony.

It is always a satisfaction to have settled beyond further doubt a question which has been a matter of controversy; but in spite of the flat denial given by Fox and Sheridan in the House of Commons in 1787—a denial which Fox asserted that he made from direct authority—there were very few, even in Mrs. Fitzherbert's lifetime, who did not believe that the marriage had taken place; and since the publication by Charles Langdale of the *Memoirs of Mrs. Fitzherbert* in 1856, the question may be said to have been at rest. The only value of Mr. Wilkins's long story is to be found in the settlement of it for all time by means of the new documentary evidence. One other question it is to be hoped will be finally answered by the publication of this book. Mrs. Fitzherbert left no descendants. Neither as Mrs. Weld nor as Mrs. Fitzherbert in her youthful days, nor during her long connection with George IV., did she have any children; and all claims to royal descent through this illegal marriage are entirely without foundation.

A. G. PORRITT.

Le Pape et l'Empereur, 1804-1815. Par HENRI WELSCHINGER.
(Paris: Plon, Nourrit et Cie. 1905. Pp. iv, 473.)

IN this work M. Welschinger has studied the conflict between Napoleon and Pius VII. from the morrow of the Concordat to the fall of the Empire. The development of the controversy, which became an open rupture in 1809 when French troops occupied Rome and carried off the pope to Savona, is briefly sketched, leaving the bulk of the